

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 L-03 INT-08 FPC-01 SS-15

NSC-10 PRS-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /138 W

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R 171551Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 305

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF PROPANE

REF: STATE 131388

1. NEARLY ALL LPG (CONSISTING OF BUTANE/PROPANE MIXTURE) PRODUCED BY NIGERIA'S SOLE REFINERY IS COMMITTED TO DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. ONLY OCCASIONALLY SMALL SHIPMENTS ARE EXPORTED TO NEIGHBORING AFRICAN NATIONS. THESE EXPORTS COMPRISE A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. IN 1972, FOR EXAMPLE, LESS THAN 3 PERCENT OF NIGERIA'S 8,843 LONG TON LPG PRODUCTION WAS EXPORTED TO CHAD. BECAUSE OF FREQUENT REFINERY BREAKDOWNS NIGERIA HAS EVEN BEEN FORCED TO IMPORT LPG TO MEET SHORT-TERM DOMESTIC NEEDS AS IN 1972 WHEN 3,690 TONS WERE IMPORTED.

2. PRIVATE COMPANY SOURCES ESTIMATE TOTAL 1973 LPG REFINERY OUTPUT AT ABOUT 15,000 TONS AND THEY NOTE THAT THIS PLANNED OUTPUT IS TAILORED TO MEET DOMESTIC NEEDS ALONE. NO EXPORTS, SAVE PERHAPS SMALL SHIPMENTS TO CHAD OR DAHOMEY, ARE ANTICIPATED. BEYOND 1973 DOMESTIC REFINERY OUTPUT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT 2,000 TONS PER YEAR FOR IMMEDIATE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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3. NO EXPORT RESTRICTIONS EXIST OTHER THAN A REQUIREMENT THAT ALL EXPORTS BE LICENSED. THESE LICENSES ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO OBTAIN. RETAIL LPG PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT PRICE CONTROL OF 12 KOB (EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 18 CENTS) PER POUND.

4. IN RELATIVELY DISTANT FUTURE (PERHAPS FIVE OR MORE YEARS IN FUTURE) NIGERIA MAY INDEED BE EXPORTER OF SIZABLE QUANTITIES RESERVES AND GAS PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CRUDE. GUADALUPE GAS COMPANY'S 1972 CONTRACT TO EXPLOIT LPG ELEMENT IN NIGERIAN NATURAL GAS FALLS IN THIS AREA. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, MOST OF THIS GAS IS EITHER BEING CONSERVED OR FLARED.  
REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS REINHARDT  
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